

Post 12-13-68

Mrs. Patler's Charge Against Nazi Dismissed

An Arlington judge dismissed yesterday a charge against a member of the American Nazi Party accused of assaulting the wife of John Patler, convicted slayer of George Lincoln Rockwell, the Party's former leader.

Alice Patler, 24, told Arlington police Wednesday night that a man she identified as Christopher Vidnjevich, 25, fired three shots at her as she entered the back door of her home at 2522 Lee hwy. shortly after 7 p.m.

Police found no evidence and Mrs. Patler swore out a warrant charging Vidnjevich with assault with intent to do bodily harm.

Vidnjevich, a witness against Patler in his murder trial a year ago, surrendered Wednesday night after being contacted by police.

At the hearing yesterday, four party members said Vidnjevich was sorting literature at party headquarters at the time of the alleged shooting.

Before dismissing the assault charge, Judge Thomas

W. Dodge said he was "convinced" threats were made against the Patler family and told Vidnjevich, "I hope you can be a peaceful citizen."

The alleged shooting was the latest in a series of clashes reported between Patler and his family and members of Rockwell's group, now known as the National Socialist White People's Party.

Vidnjevich, listed at 6365 N. Nottingham st., McLean, was convicted earlier this year in Maine of shooting at a witness who testified for Patler.

Patler, 30, is free on \$40,000 bond while appealing his first-degree murder conviction. He was given a 20-year sentence.